UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF BERKELEY

# Congregational Meeting Minutes
# Sunday, May 17, 2026
# DRAFT

1. **Call to Order:**
   Board Co-Presidents Selene Fabiano and Pier Sun Ho called the meeting to order at 12:39 p.m.

2. **Convene:**
   a. Quorum Count (15% of 316 = 47 members required). Quorum was reached with at least 52 members present.

   b. Chalice Lighting - Board of Trustees Member Ryan Devine lit the chalice while Board of Trustees Member Carla McCasland recited a chalice reading.

   c. Covenant Reading – Read by the congregation.

   d. Land Acknowledgment Reading – by Selene Fabiano

3. **Consent Agenda:**
   **a.** Adoption of Agenda, with the addition of a presentation by the Committee on Ministry.

   b. Approval of February 22, 2026 Congregational Meeting Minutes

   Motion by Carla McCasland/second by Kay Fairwell, to approve the Consent Agenda as amended. Motion passed unanimously.

4. **Present Schweitzer Medal for Extraordinary Service to Helen Toy:**
   Helen Tinsley Jones presented the Schweitzer Medal to Helen Toy.

5. **Committee on Ministry Presentation:**
   On behalf of the Committee, Chair Ladie Malek recognized and thanked Ann Harlow for her years of kitchen/hospitality ministry and other work for the church.

6. **Nominating Committee Affirmation and Installation:**
   Rev. Marcus led the congregation's affirmation and installation of the Nominating Committee: Michael Armstrong, Cynthia Asprodites (new), Suzette Anderson-Duggan, Paul Hudson, Kay Fairwell (new), Kristen Jensen(new), Sima Misra, Carrisa Orwig, Lorraine Schnurr.

   Gratitude was expressed to outgoing Nominating Committee members, who are Anita Mermel, Pier Sun Ho, and Andrew Swan.

7. **Approve use of a portion of the Lee Lawrence bequest to UUCB to pay back the internal loan from the Board Designated Endowment to the Ministerial Housing Fund**

   Treasurer Lisa Maynard summarized the background and purpose of the proposed action.

   Motion by Ladie Malek and Seconded by Norie Clark to approve the repayment of the internal loan from the Board Designated Endowment to the Ministerial Housing Fund. The motion passed unanimously.

8. **Approve Board of Trustees recommended Budget for 2026-27 Fiscal Year:**

   Operations Director Janae Heard presented the proposed budget and praised the Stewardship Committee for achieving and exceeding the $550,000 pledge goal.

   Motion was made by Patrick Cullinane and Seconded by Karen Elliott to approve the proposed 2026-27 fiscal year budget. Motion passed unanimously.

9. **State of the Congregation Report:**

   Co-Presidents Selene Fabiano and Pier Sun Ho reflected on a year of growth, compassion, and resilience. They celebrated strong programs in support of social justice, immigrant solidarity, climate justice, peace, Pride, pastoral care, and vulnerable communities in a time of rising cruelty and authoritarianism by the federal government. Family ministry expanded through youth programs, choir participation, Coming of Age, and a renewed focus on welcoming children and families. Worship attendance, membership, and stewardship giving all increased, reflecting our vitality and values in action.

   They acknowledged lingering grief and tension surrounding the Freestone property decision, emphasizing listening, healing, and respectful dialogue in moving forward. Looking ahead, UUCB faces important work in facilities maintenance and upgrades, capital campaign planning, legacy giving, and an expanded pool of congregant volunteers. The Board of Trustees has deep gratitude for the volunteers, generosity, relationships, and shared commitment sustaining the congregation's hopeful future.

**10. Benediction:** Rev. Marcus provided the benediction.

**11. Adjournment**: The meeting was adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Pollard, Board Secretary